

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 7 of page 1, with the following amended paragraph.

--Diagnostic catheters and guide catheters are commonly used to facilitate the diagnosis and treatment of vascular diseases such as coronary artery disease and peripheral vascular disease. Balloon catheters are commonly used to treat vascular disease by dilating stenotic lesions. Treatment and diagnostic catheters and other medical devices are often advanced distally over a guidewire or a distal protection device having a stop. Often, the ~~distally distal~~ tips of medical devices such as catheters are soft and flexible to reduce trauma to vessel walls. However, if the catheter is used on a guidewire or other device that has a stop, the distal end of the medical device may ride up on or become ~~engage~~ engaged with the stop. There is an ongoing need to provide alternative designs and methods for making and using medical devices which alleviates this problem and still reduces potential trauma to vessel walls.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 7 of page 4, with the following amended paragraph.

--Figure 1 illustrates a partial perspective view depicting a medical device 100 disposed on a guidewire 102. By way of example and not limitation medical device 100 shown is a stent delivery catheter system. However, it is recognized that the invention is susceptible to other medical devices such as angioplasty catheters, guide catheters, atherectomy devices, intravascular ~~filters~~ filters, interventional devices, and therapeutic agent delivery systems. This list is intended to be exemplary and not limiting. Medical device 100 includes a tubular member 104 and a distal tip 106. Medical devices having other components or configurations are contemplated. For example, tubular member 104 and distal tip 106 may

be integral, or one or both may be formed separately and then attached. Distal tip 106 includes a generally soft body portion 108 and a rigid annular ring 110.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 15 of page 6, with the following amended paragraph.

--Figure 6 is a diagrammatic cross-sectional view of another example embodiment of a distal tip 406. Distal tip 406 is shown disposed on a guidewire 102 having a distal stop 114 and has an inner diameter such that it slidably fits over the guidewire. Distal tip 406 may have a gradual taper 420 down to diameter 422 and then may include a sharper final taper 424. Diameter 422 may extend for a distance or may be the transition point between taper 420 and taper 424. Final taper 424 is at the distal-most end of tip 406 and may be a radius or a bevel. Final taper 424 may make it harder to push tip 406 over stop 114 on guidewire 102. Final taper 424 may be formed by reflow of distal tip 406 or other suitable process. Distal tip 406 may include other elements described above, such as a marker band 426, or a rigid ring, just proximal the final taper. Distal tip 406 with marker band 426 embedded within may be produced using any suitable process. For example, marker band 426 may be inset ~~molding~~ molded within distal tip 406. In another example method of manufacture, a distal tip precursor may be molded with a groove sized and positioned for a marker band. The groove may have a distal facing opening, or other suitable opening. A marker band may then be inserted into the distal tip precursor. The distal tip precursor may then be selectively remolded into a distal tip 406 by selective reflowing. The reflowing may be accomplished through any suitable method, such as localized application of thermal or laser heating. Embodiments are contemplated where marker band 426 is distal or proximal the location shown in Figure 6.--